



WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER OCTOBER 2024

ELMERS

At a recent WVDXA Breakfast (8:15 Tuesday mornings at Bob Evans on Jefferson Road in South Charleston) John Jones, WB8CQV mentioned seeing a “new” antenna and asked if anyone knew whose it was. He suggested that whoever had put it up badly needed an Elmer.

Bob Delauter, KE8ZEC and I were driving around and I brought up the previous conversation. We realized neither of us knew where the term “Elmer” originated. Those two conversations resulted in this article.

In the March 1971 issue of QST, Tod Newkirk, W9BRD, in his “How's DX” column, devoted six paragraphs to the need for “ham to non-ham” contact in developing new amateur radio operators. Mr. Newkirk praised his personal mentor, variously called, Elmer or Bud.

Years later (March 22, 2016 to be precise) at the age of 93, Elmer “Bud” Frohardt, Jr, W9DY of Madison, Wisconsin became a Silent Key. W9DY (formerly W9GFF) was recognized as the “Elmer” Newkirk had in mind when he used the name. Frohardt was a veteran Dxer who worked all 381 countries then available from his home in Chicago, IL. After retirement Frohardt moved to an “antenna restricted” community. He began chasing DX from his car where he contacted 328 entities.

On his QRZ.com page, Frohardt wrote “Am most proud of all the wonderful young people I have been able to interest in science, radio, DX, CW and electronics.”

As you look around you at the many experienced hams who gave and still give you guidance, advice and encouragement in moving from a want-to-be ham to a functional Amateur Radio Operator, remember to thank them.

In that spirit, I am publicly giving thanks to some of the Elmers who have given me guidance, education, encouragement and support in becoming and growing as a ham even, if they didn't realize it:

Doug Thornton, WZ8U

Charlie Young, N8RR

John Jones, WB8CQV

Jeff Clark, KU8R

David Poe, W8IW

James Damron, N8TMW

Mike Smoot, KD8GWH

Scott Nasby, KB8ZIO

Tim Stinespring, K8RRT

CHARLESTON AREA HAM TRUNK JUNK FEST

Sunday, November 3, 2024 KARC will host a tailgate hamfest starting at noon in the Coonskin Park Club House parking lot in Charleston. There is no fee for tables (none are provided), or admission. There aren't any prizes either.

Come to buy and sell out of your vehicle, or just come to socialize with other hams. In the event of rain, you might get wet!

For more information contact Randy Damron, N8XEA at randydamron@yahoo.com.

SPLATTER

Splatter, what is it really? According to ARRL's 1950 Edition of *The Radio Amateurs Handbook*: "It is obviously of first importance to prevent the modulation from exceeding 100 per cent, and thus prevent the generation of spurious sidebands – Commonly called splatter." In the 2021 edition of the same book in the section on *Intermodulation Distortion* (pp 11-27) it states: "Odd-order products can fall within the desired channel, where they cause distortion of the modulation. Or at nearby frequencies, where they cause interference to other stations."

"The informal term for such IMD that interferes with other stations outside the desired channel is splatter."

My handy desk top dictionary defines splatter as "A splatter or splash". My English teacher called that a "circular" definition. Nothing about radio at all.

While I hope this publication does not cause interference with other channels or forms of communication, I do hope it causes a splash among its readers.

If you would like to learn more about radio splatter, there is an informative video online called: "New Ham Tips - Splatter. What is it? Why is it bad? How to avoid it." by Kevin Loughin, KB9RLW. He has several videos I've enjoyed watching and learning from.

KARC 75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The dinner to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Kanawha Amateur Radio Club will be on Friday, November 1st. Two options for the dinner are under consideration.

The first option is a traditional covered dish dinner, with the club providing the meat; either a sandwich meat platter or fried chicken. This option would be at the Trinity Lutheran Church – location of KARC's usual meetings.

The second option is dinner in the Banquet Room at Hardings, at the Mink Shoals exit of I-79. There is a broad choice of entrees available at the price of \$19.50 with dessert or \$16.50 without dessert.

Please contact Terry Sanner, WV8V at terry.sanner@frontier.net or Fred Vickers, WV8FV at wv8fv@arrl.net to indicate which option you prefer.



ANTENNAS TO LINK REPEATERS

NETS	MEETINGS
<p><i>Northern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club</i> <i>Sunday at 7:00 PM</i> <i>Digital net 441.825</i></p>	<p>WV8AR will meet October 14 at CAMC Teays Valley Hospital 1400 Hospital Drive Hurricane, WV 25526 Education Room at 7PM</p>
<p><i>Kanawha ARES Net</i> <i>Sundays at 8:00pm</i> <i>145.350 PL 91.5</i></p>	<p>KARC will meet October 4 at The Trinity Lutheran Church 1600 Kanawha Blvd. E Charleston WV 25311 Greetings @ 6 pm Meeting @ 6:30 pm</p>
<p><i>Kanawha Amateur Radio Club (KARC) Net</i> <i>Sundays at 8:30pm</i> <i>145.350 PL 91.5</i></p>	<p>Kanawha ARES will meet on October 17 at Kanawha County 911 Center 100 Peyton Way (Off Corridor G) Charleston, WV Meeting @ 6:00 pm</p>
<p><i>Cabell County ARES Net</i> Monday at 8:30pm On the following linked repeaters: W8VA 146.76- PL 131.8 N8OLC 146.985- PL 131.8 KB8TGK 443.850+ PL 162.2 (Echolink capable)</p>	<p>Tri-State Amateur Radio Club (TARA) will meet on October 15 at: Museum of Radio and Technology 1640 Florence Ave Huntington, WV 25701. Meeting @ 7:00 PM</p>
<p><i>Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub (P.A.R.K.)</i> Tuesdays, 9 P.M. on all repeaters. Repeaters (linked) 146.970 MHz -offset 147.390 MHz +offset 444.725 MHz + offset (all repeaters use 91.5 tone)</p>	<p>Wood County Area Hamfest October 14, 2024</p> <p>This annual hamfest will be held at the Wood County 4-H Fairgrounds on Butcher Bend Road near Mineral Wells. Admission is \$5 for adults with a bonus ticket package of admission and 8 extra door prize tickets for \$10. Additional extra tickets can be purchased at the door.</p> <p>The top three prizes have not been announced yet. The winning tickets for them will be drawn at noon. Tickets for smaller prizes will be drawn every five minutes from 9 AM until 11:45 AM. .</p>
<p><i>MARA hosts the weekly ARES WX net on Wednesdays, at 9 P.M.on the Fairmont repeater.</i> <i>145.35 MHz PL 103.5</i></p>	
<p><i>Country Roads Net</i> <i>Thursday 8:00 P.M</i> WV-Link Room 46488 Local Node Connection: WVAR UHF 441.825 (Scott Depot, WV) WB8CQV VHF 147.21 MHz (South Charleston, WV) <i>Hot spots use US-WV-LINK (19941)</i></p>	
<p><i>Ohio Valley ARES Net</i> <i>Saturday 10:00 AM</i> <i>441.825</i></p>	

Museum of Radio and Technology's New Electronic Learning Center

The Museum of Radio and Technology, at 1640 Florence Ave, Huntington, WV, is thrilled to announce the completion of its new Electronic Learning Center. Designed to provide hands-on learning experiences for students of all ages, the center is fully equipped with work stations with power supplies, multimeters, soldering irons, and a range of tools to help budding electronics enthusiasts build their skills.

The Electronic Learning Center is an exciting expansion for the museum, which has long been dedicated to preserving and showcasing the history of radio and technology. This new center will allow the museum to enhance its educational offerings by providing a space where students can actively engage with electronics and technology. "Our mission has always been to educate and inspire the next generation of innovators," said the Museum President "The completion of the Electronic Learning Center marks a significant step forward in our ability to offer hands-on educational experiences. We're proud to offer a space where students can learn by doing and develop valuable skills that will serve them in the future."

Among the center's initial offerings are classes focused on the repair of all American 5 Tube radios, a classic radio design used by most radio producers in the mid-20th century. These classes provide a unique opportunity for students to learn about the inner workings of vintage radios and gain experience in electronic repair.

In addition to radio repair classes, the museum will offer a variety of courses, including:

- **Basic Soldering for Kids:** A fun and interactive class where young students can learn the fundamentals of soldering, an essential skill in electronics. This class is scheduled for December 7th, between 10:00 to 2:00pm.
- **Morse Code:** Students can explore the world of communication by learning Morse code, a skill that played a crucial role in early radio technology.
- **Introduction to Arduino:** This course will introduce students to the world of microcontrollers and programming, with a focus on building simple projects using Arduino.

"The Electronic Learning Center is about more than just teaching skills—it's about sparking curiosity and creativity," said Lead Educator Bill Reich. "We want to give students the tools and knowledge they need to explore the world of electronics, whether they're interested in vintage technology or modern innovations like Arduino."

The Museum of Radio and Technology invites the community to join in celebrating the opening of the Electronic Learning Center. Tours of the new facility and demonstrations will be available during regular museum hours. Whether you're a seasoned electronics enthusiast or just starting out, there's something for everyone at the museum.

The Museum of Radio and Technology, is dedicated to preserving the history of radio, electronics, and related technology. With a collection of vintage radios, televisions, and other electronic devices, the museum offers a fascinating look at the evolution of technology. Through exhibits, educational programs, and special events, the museum strives to inspire and educate visitors of all ages. For more information about upcoming classes check out our website at mrtwv.org or by contacting the museum at:

Museum of Radio and Technology
1640 Florence Ave, Huntington, WV
Phone: 304-525-8890
Email: mratwv@gmail.com

The International DX Association (INDEXA)

INDEXA is an amateur radio organization dedicated to working DX and making DX possible. It is incorporated as a non-profit organization and has been managed by unpaid volunteers since 1983. In its many years of service to the DX community it has sponsored hundreds of DXpeditions to rare and semi-rare countries.

Among other things INDEXA:

- Promotes and supports DX operations in countries that have limited or no amateur radio activity. Support is usually to DXpeditions to rare DXCC entities.
- Provides a quarterly newsletter via E-mail for INDEXA members.
- Promotes goodwill among amateur radio operators of the world.
- Supports and abides by amateur radio rules and regulations set forth by the FCC and other governing bodies.
- Promotes DX operations by amateur radio operators on an equal basis, regardless of their class of license.
- Promotes good amateur radio operating practices.

For more information, or to join INDEXA visit their web site at: <https://indexa.org>.

THE DX CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER

It is my intention that West Virginia Splatter be a newsletter for all Amateur Radio Operators throughout the Mountain State, or who once lived here. If you know a Ham who might like a copy, send in her, or his, email address and we will get it on our distribution list. Also, if you get more than one copy of the email with this newsletter, or don't want it at all, just let me know and I'll fix it.

The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club has begun posting the current and former issues of Splatter on the Club website (www.wv8ar.com). Reposting copies on other clubs websites or sharing it with other hams by any other distribution method is not only allowed but is actively encouraged.

Finally, this newsletter needs input from all its readers. To promote an event or submit an article contact me, Jim Hudson, KE8PNY at nettlescreek@frontier.com.